

CLAIM(S)

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling access to call processing features of call processing software, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a license file for call processing software;

in response to a request to enable a call processing feature, checking if the license file indicates the feature is valid for a call processing system; and

if the feature is indicated as valid for the call processing system, allowing enablement of the requested call processing feature on the call processing system.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the received license file includes a system identifier attribute and wherein the checking step further comprises the steps of:

determining if the license file system identifier attribute corresponds to the system identifier of the call processing system; and

if the license file system identifier attribute corresponds to the system identifier of the call processing system, indicating the license information is valid.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the received license file includes a call processing software version information attribute and wherein the checking step further comprises the steps of:

determining if the call processing software version information attribute of the received license file corresponds to the call processing software version on the call processing system; and

if the call processing software version information attribute corresponds to the call processing software version on the call processing system, indicating the license information is valid.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the received license file indicates call processing software features able to be enabled.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the received license file indicates disabled call processing software features.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the received license file is encrypted and wherein the checking step further comprises the step of:  
decrypting the encrypted license file.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the received license file is received in electronic form.

8. A provisioning system for controlling access to call processing features of call processing software comprising:

a processor for receiving and transmitting data; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having stored therein a license file and instructions causing the processor to, in response to a request to enable a call processing feature, check if the license file indicates the feature is valid for a call processing system including the call processing software, and if the feature

is valid, allowing enablement of the requested call processing feature of the call processing software.

9. The provisioning system of claim 8, wherein the received license file includes a system identifier attribute and wherein the instructions stored in memory further cause the processor to:

determine if the license file system identifier attribute corresponds to the system identifier of the call processing system; and

if the license file system identifier attribute corresponds to the system identifier of the call processing system, indicate the license information is valid.

10. The provisioning system of claim 8, wherein the received license file includes a call processing software version information attribute and wherein the instructions stored in memory further cause the processor to:

determine if the call processing software version information attribute of the received license file corresponds to the call processing software version on the call processing system; and

if the call processing software version information attribute corresponds to the call processing software version on the call processing system, indicate the license information is valid.

11. The provisioning system of claim 8, wherein the received license file indicates call processing software features able to be enabled.

12. The provisioning system of claim 8, wherein the received license file indicates disabled call processing software features.

13. The provisioning system of claim 8, wherein the received license file is encrypted and wherein the instructions stored in memory further cause the processor to:

decrypt the encrypted license file.

14. A computer-readable medium comprising:

at least one sequence of machine executable instructions;

a license file; and

the medium bearing the executable instructions, wherein execution of the instructions by one or more processors cause the one or more processors to: in response to a request to enable a call processing feature, check if the license file indicates the feature is valid for the processor, and if the feature is valid, allowing enablement of the requested call processing feature of the call processing software.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the received license file includes a system identifier attribute and wherein the instructions stored in memory further cause the processor to:

determine if the license file system identifier attribute corresponds to the system identifier of the call processing system; and

if the license file system identifier attribute corresponds to the system identifier of the call processing system, indicate the license information is valid.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the received license file includes a call processing software version information attribute and wherein the instructions stored in memory further cause the processor to:

determine if the call processing software version information attribute of the received license file corresponds to the call processing software version on the call processing system; and

if the call processing software version information attribute corresponds to the call processing software version on the call processing system, indicate the license information is valid.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the received license file indicates call processing software features able to be enabled.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the received license file indicates disabled call processing software features.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the received license file is encrypted and wherein the instructions stored in memory further cause the processor to:

decrypt the encrypted license file.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the received license file is received in electronic form.